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Inland Empire Hispanic News

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HISPANIC NEWS

Serving the Hispanic Communities in the Inland Empire

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The Inland Empire's Only Hispanic Minority Owned English Language Newspaper

LOCAL HERO BRINGS HOME GOLD

Derek Parra is San Bernardino County's First Olympic Champion

By Esperanza Allende



San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles (right) introduced Derek Parra (center) at the State of the City Breakfast held at the Hilton Hotel, where she declared February 26, Derek Parra day. Ralph Affaitati, San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce, (left) previously introduced Mayor Valles. A surprised Parra, Olympic gold and silver medal winner, received several standing ovations at the Breakfast. Photo by IEHN

On opening day of the 2002 Olympic Games, Derek Parra became the first Mexican American to win a Winter Olympics medal. Parra, 31, took the silver in the 5,000-meter speed skate, and then he claimed the gold medal, setting a world record in the 1,500-meter race.

Parra's mother, Maria McCracken, said the medals would always be a source of enrichment for her son and inspiration for other Hispanics.

"He'll always be reliving it. It will keep on giving," she said. "Some kid will read about him in a library when more Latino people are in the sport and it'll say the first one was Derek Parra."

Parra was surprised to hear that a parade would be held in his honor in San Bernardino, where his father and brother still live. "I can't believe that. That's something they should have for single moms with kids, war heroes, firefighters, policemen. Not athletes," he said.



Derek Parra, Olympic medalist, above, spoke at the State of the City Breakfast to an overflow audience about his victories at the 1500 and 5000 races and challenges he faced to accomplish his lifetime goals. Photo by IEHN



Bertha and Gilbert Parra, parents of Derek Parra (right and center) proudly display a newspaper spread of their son at the State of the City Breakfast at the Hilton Hotel. At left, Trini Gomez, Inland Empire Hispanic News' office manager. Photo by IEHN.



San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles presents the State of the City Report to a packed audience at the Hilton Hotel. Mayor Valles compared the successes of Medalist Derek Parra to the identical successes of the city. The mayor reviewed the accomplishment that has occurred within the last four years and further stated future goals to be implemented to continue the city's progress. Photo by IEHN

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INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS ENDORSEMENTS

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Congress 42nd District

Joe Baca

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Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General
Secretary of State
Controller
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Steve Westly
Philip Angelides
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Nell Soto
Gloria Negrete McLeod
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Riverside County Office

Office of Education

David Long

San Bernardino County Offices

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Superior Court Judge # 6
Assessor
Auditor Controller
District Attorney
Public Administrator-Coroner
Sheriff
Superintendent of Schools

Roberta McPeters
Michael Libutte
R. Gordon Young
Larry Walker
Mike Ramos
Monica Padilla-Rohlinger
Gary Penrod
Herbert Fischer

Bond Measures

Proposition 40 Yes
Proposition 41 Yes
Proposition 42 Yes
Proposition 43 Yes
Proposition 44 Yes
Proposition 45 Yes

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY IN NEED OF VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Drivers needed to Deliver Flowers

The American Cancer Society desperately needs volunteer drivers during the week of March 18 to help deliver daffodils for its Annual Daffodil Days campaign. Drivers will either deliver flowers to businesses, schools and homes, or deliver Gift of Hope bouquets to cancer patients.

Like regular flower purchases made through the Daffodil Days campaign, the Gift of Hope program funds cancer research, educational programs, services for cancer patients and their families, and furthers the mission of the American Cancer Society. However, it also enables your local American Cancer Society to deliver bouquets of daffodils anonymously to cancer patients at local medical centers and facilities in the Riverside community.

"One of the most joyous ways to volunteer short-term with the American Cancer Society is to help deliver these flowers of hope to cancer patients and to those who purchased them," added Mary Hunt, Chair for Daffodil Days in the San Bernardino

Community.

To volunteer as a driver for Daffodil days 2002, or to join the fight against cancer by purchasing these beautiful flowers, call the American Cancer society at 1-800-ACS-2345, or visit our website at www.cancer.org.

Your American Cancer Society is a nationwide voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives from cancer and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.



Inland Empire HISPANIC NEWS

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- Pauline Jaramillo
- Esperanza Allende
- Angela Vasquez

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Telephone (909) 381-6259
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- Selected as Superintendent of the Year.
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- State leader in financial process.
- Considered a technology pioneer.

Please join us in voting for Dave Long

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Congressman Ken
Calvert
Senator Ray Haynes
Senator Jim Brulte
Senator Jack
O'Connell
Former Senator
Robert Presley
Assemblyman Russ
Bogh
Assemblyman Dennis
Hollingsworth
Assemblyman Dave
Kelley

Assemblyman Rod Pacheco

Riverside County
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Supervisors
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Supervisor Tom
Mullen
Supervisor John
Tavaglione
Supervisor Roy
Wilson
Supervisor Jim
Venable

County leaders
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Undersheriff Bob
Doyle
District Attorney
Grover Trask
Assessor Gary Orso
Treasurer Paul
McDonnell

Associations
Riverside Sheriff's
Association
Central Labor Council
AFL-CIO
Riverside County
School Resource
Officers'
Association

California State
Resource Officers'
Association
Teachers'
Associations
(Countywide)
Association of
California School
Administrators,
Region 12 *

Mayors
Mayor Ron
Loveridge, Riverside
Mayor Genie Kelley,
Lake Elsinore
Mayor John Pena, La
Quinta

Vote for Dave Long on March 5

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

The following activities in the Inland Empire are notices from the Inland Counties Hispanic Roundtable and notifications from organizations. IEHN is not responsible for any changes to the schedules listed below.

February 27th, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. San Bernardino Valley College M.E.Ch.A. presents the Chicano Speaker Series. Guest speaker will be artist Simon Silva. The event will be at the San Bernardino Valley College in the Student lounge. San Bernardino Valley College is located at 700 North Mount Vernon Avenue, San Bernardino. For more information call (909) 888-6511

February 28th, 2002 at 12:00 p.m. the Hispanic Employees Alliance will have their monthly meeting at the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton. For more information please contact either Rosa Granado at (909) 386-0734 or Joe Rodriguez at (909) 387-3064

February 28th, 2002 Bank of America along with the City of Rancho Cucamonga and the Quakes Baseball team are sponsoring the MEGA MIXER 2002. Last year over 800 people attended. Invited are business professionals and business owners, make sure to bring your business cards, this will be a great event to network. This free event will be held at the Epic Center in Rancho Cucamonga. To RSVP contact (909) 328-1385

March 2002

March 1st, 2002 UC Riverside's M.E.Ch.A. is sponsoring a Community College day. This event is intended to give transfer students from community colleges the opportunity to experience the campus life of UC Riverside. For more information please contact the Chicano Student Programs office at (909) 787-3821

March 4th-8th, 2002 UC Riverside's M.E.Ch.A. will be celebrating "Semana de la Mujer." All week long there will be a variety of events celebrating the accomplishments of women. Details will later be announced, but for more information please contact the Chicano Student Programs office at (909) 787-3821

March 5th, 2002 Remember your vote counts, so don't forget to Vote!

March 6th, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. San Bernardino Valley College M.E.Ch.A. will present the Chicano Speaker Series. The event will be at the San Bernardino Valley College in the Student lounge. San Bernardino Valley College is located at 700 North Mount Vernon Avenue, San Ber-

nardino. For more information please contact (909) 888-6511

March 9th, 2002 from 8-11:00 p.m. the Rialto MAPA (Mexican American Political Association) will be holding a Cesar Chavez Memorial breakfast at El Patio Restaurant located at 333 East Foothill Boulevard in Rialto. Keynote speaker will be Dolores Huerta accompanied by entertainment from the Mariachi Estudiantil de Inland Empire. Ticket prices are \$20.00. For more information or to RSVP please contact Dee Ortega at (909) 854-4660 or email: mapamama@hotmail.com

March 10, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Association will be having a meeting hosted by San Gorgonio Pass Hispanic Chamber and Trade Association. The meeting will be at Marla's Restaurant located at 1310 East 6th Street, Beaumont. For more information or to RSVP please contact Al Lopez at (909) 845-4528

March 11th, 2002 the Inland Counties Hispanic Roundtable will have their meeting at Mexico Café located at 892 East Highland Avenue, San Bernardino at 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Pamela Villalobos from the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center. For more information or to RSVP call (909) 885-5777 email: ichr02@msn.com

March 12th, 2002 at 5:30 p.m. monthly Salsa Night and Business Networking at Café Sevilla in Riverside. Hispanic Lifestyle Magazine hosts this event. The cover charge is \$5.00, which includes appetizers and door prizes. For more information or to RSVP contact (909) 328-1385 or www.cafesevilla.com

March 13th, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. San Bernardino Valley College M.E.Ch.A. will present the Chicano Speaker Series. Featured presentation is "Sweatshop One on the forever 21 boycott." The event will be at the San Bernardino Valley College in the Student lounge. San Bernardino Valley College is located at 700 North Mount Vernon Avenue, San Bernardino. For more information please contact (909) 888-6511

March 17th, 2002 Sinfonia Mexicana will sponsor a trip to the Palm Springs Follies. For more information contact the Sinfonia Mexicana office at 468 West 5th Street, San Bernardino, or call (909) 884-3228, email:

mexicanasympphony@msn.com

March 21st, 2002 at 5:30 p.m. the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will be having a member reception. For more information or to RSVP please call (909) 888-2188

March 22nd, 2002 there will be the 4th Annual Latina Conference. The Latina Conference 2002 will focus on Latinas in the entertainment field and the responsibility of being a role model. KTLA morning personality, Giselle Fernandez will deliver one of the keynote addresses. Lynette Romero from News @ 10 will be the mistress of ceremony. The event will be at the Ontario Airport Hilton. For more information check www.hispaniclifestyle.com

March 23rd, 2002 the City of San Bernardino will host the Inland Empire Annual Women's Conference and Trade Show at Cal State San Bernardino. For more information please contact (909) 384-5133

March 27th, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. Focus 92411 is celebrating their grand opening. The meeting will be at Community Hospital San Bernardino, Henderson Auditorium, located at 1805 Medical Center Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92411. For more information please call (909) 806-1544

March 28th, 2002 at 7:15 a.m. the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will be having B.E.A.N.S. at Mitla's Café in San Bernardino, there will also be Small Business Loans presentations. For more information or to RSVP please contact (909) 888-2188

March 30th, 2002 UC Riverside's M.E.Ch.A. will be hosting the Cesar Chavez Fun Walk-A-Thon. For more information please contact Israel Gonzales at the Chicano Student Programs office, (909) 787-3821

April 2002

April 4th, 2002 from 7:00-9:00 a.m. Cesar Chavez Prayer Breakfast Birthday Tribute at the Gents Hall. Keynote address will be by Arturo Rodriguez, President of the UFW. Special Guest entertainment by Lalo Guerrero and La Familia Romero. The price is \$10.00 per person. For more information or to RSVP for the event please contact the Inland Counties Hispanic Roundtable at (909) 885-5777 or email: ICHR02@msn.com

April 6th, 2002 come join the UFW AFL-CIO celebrate the 4th Annual Cesar Chavez Walk-a-thon in downtown Los Angeles. For more information contact the UFW at (323) 722-0118 or email: walkathon3@hotmail.com

April 13th, 2002 from 10-6:00 p.m. the San Diego Latino Book and Family Festival hosted by Edward James Olmos will be at the San Diego Convention Center, which is located at Sails Pavilion 111 West Harbor Drive, San Diego. Admission is free.

April 14th, 2002 the City of San Bernardino along with the Over the Hill Gang will host the 3rd Annual "Berdo Cruise" at Perris Hill Park. For more information contact (909) 384-5133.

April 14th, 2002 from 10-6:00 p.m. the San Diego Latino Book and Family Festival hosted by Edward James Olmos will be at the San Diego Convention Center, which is located at Sails Pavilion 111 West Harbor Drive, San Diego. Admission is free.

April 14th, 2002 from 3-8:00 p.m. the City of Rialto along with the Rialto MAPA has scheduled a 50's Dance fundraiser for the Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Entertainment includes a DJ and guest appearance by the "Elvis." The 50's Dance will be at the El Patio Ballroom, 333 East Foothill Boulevard, Rialto. Tickets \$25.00 per person. For more information please email: mapamama@hotmail.com, Contact for reservations TBA.

April 18th, 2002 at 5:30 p.m. the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will be having a member reception. For more information or to RSVP please call (909) 888-2188

April 27th, 2002 the City of San Bernardino will host the Cinco de Mayo Family Festival. For more information contact (909) 384-5133.

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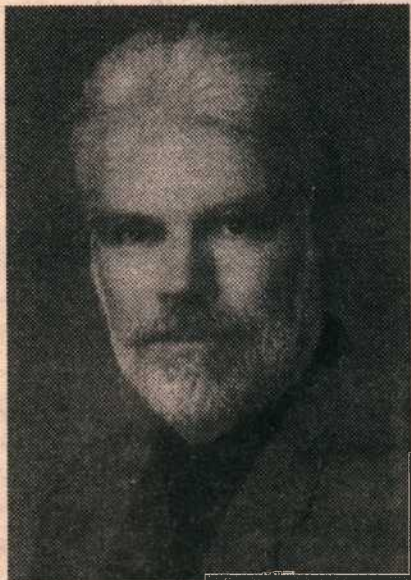
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KEITH JOHNSON—DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE 41ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

By Angela Vasquez



Keith Johnson is the "accessible" Democratic Candidate for the 41st Congressional District of California whose incumbent, Congressman Jerry Lewis, has served for 24 years.

With admittedly no professional political experience Johnson's stint in the United States Marine Corps helped him to form the basis of his campaign, "We can't leave anyone behind."

Johnson worked for a time in the Redlands, San Bernardino and Yucaipa Unified School Districts as a substitute teacher, and worked on changing students minds that considered dropping out. His ideology was, "When you climb a mountain...you must reach back!"

Johnson also served the Inland Empire and high and low deserts as a marketing representative for The Southern California Gas Company. From this experience he picked-up an understanding of deregulation, the South Coast Air Quality Management District's regulations, and learned how to think "outside the

box" to keep businesses from leaving California due to increasing energy costs and environmental issues.

For the past 18 years Johnson has worked with at-risk youth in the streets, juvenile hall, youth authority and in the prisons. His work with children and families have endeared him to the community, a community which he feels will support him during election time.

Donating his time to these causes, along with assisting his wife with mentally and physically disabled children in Coachella Valley, has opened his eyes to the neglect that exists within our communities. Johnson's platform includes restored Medicare benefits for seniors and a tax relief for seniors and veterans. Johnson also wants to provide current military personnel with a pay increase to raise many of the lower ranked officers above poverty level.

"If you really want to thank a veteran, thank them financially," said Johnson. "As a veteran, I am sensitive to the needs of the military."

Johnson is also picking up the fight for labor, the environment, and the physically and mentally challenged. He also believes in protecting the Bill of Rights, pro-choice, and against capital punishment. Johnson also supports substance free children, education and prison reform.

"If you are tired of big business and the energy companies getting fat, while you and your family are having to get by on less, then join me in saying enough," says Johnson.

R.GORDON YOUNG CANDIDATE FOR SAN BERNARDINO ASSESSOR

By Angela Vasquez



Gordon Young is running for the position of Assessor for the San Bernardino County and is seeking to oust the controversy and lawsuit plaguing Assessor Donald Williamson. Gordon is promoting, "Results, not excuses."

Young moved to San Bernardino County in 1951 and served four terms as Assessor, from 1978-1994. By 1988 Young had cut costs and increased output in the Assessor's Office, with a 20% lower budget and a higher population growth.

Young has 46 years of managerial background as an auditor for Deloitte & Touche, an internal auditor, systems and procedures designer, and a cost planning analyst for Kaiser Steel, and an accounting

and office manager for Kaiser Hospital.

His political background, aside from his 16 years as Assessor, includes serving on the Fontana City Council from 1968-1976, and the Fontana Board of Education from 1965-1968.

Young has served as a member of the Inland Valley Development Agency, a past director of the California Assessor's Association, a past trustee of the Fontana ElksLodge, and a director of the Inland Valley Federal Credit Union.

Young seeks to take the following actions once elected Assessor: Increase homeowners exemptions; increase benefits for all veterans and military personnel; increase exemptions for those over the age of 65; allow exemptions for non-profit organizations currently excluded; streamline the appraisal system; obtain additional funds to automate the mapping system; and eliminate the \$2,100,000 state loan that current Assessor obtains every year.

"The Assessor's Office deserves someone who is dedicated to the job, enjoys working with a pleasant staff and treats the personnel in a dignified professional manner," says Young. "I did this for 16 years and will continue to do so when elected again."

MICHAEL LIBUTTI ON BALLOT SEEKING TO REPLACE RETIRING JUDGE

By Angela Vasquez



Libutti, a 13 year Deputy District Attorney and veteran trial prosecutor, is endorsed by law enforcement, judges, educators and community leaders. He has special training in civil law as a former civil litigation attorney in a 60-lawyer firm.

His leadership experience in-

cludes serving as a councilman for the City of Upland, a member of the Police/Fire Committee, the Chamber of

Commerce, the Economic Development Committee, the Government Relations Committee, his church board, the YMCA Board of Directors and the Little League Board.

Libutti fights crime as a legislation committee member for the California District Attorneys Association by helping to pass laws that protect victims. He is also a prison committee member, a member of the California District Attorneys Association, and the San Bernardino County and West End Bar Association. According to supporter, Libutti is truly dedicated, a tough crime fighter that seeks to keep San Bernardino County safe.

Libutti indicates that his motto is, "Public safety first."

Libutti is a tough crime fighter that seeks to keep San Bernardino County safe.

VOTE FOR MARJORIE MUSSER MIKELS FOR 26th Congressional District



- ❖ Justice and Constitutional rights
- ❖ Living wage, health Care and Secure Retirement For Working Families
- ❖ Social Security and Prescription Drug Benefits
- ❖ Conservation and Sustainable Energy (Less reliance on oil and nuclear power)
- ❖ Funds for Education and Child Development
- ❖ Reduce Military Spending and Corporate Welfare

Constitutional Attorney, Small Business Owner, Born in Upland, CA
BA Westmont College, JD-UCLA

I.D. No. Pending

BRIAN MCCORMICK CANDIDATE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR/CORONER

By Angela Vasquez



Brian McCormick is a candidate for the Public Administrator/Coroner position and is hoping to gain re-election based on the accomplishments he has made over the past 20 years. As a 30 year county employee McCormick is seeking re-election with the endorsement of law enforcement and other elected officials in San Bernardino County.

McCormick's achievements have been plentiful over the years: Established first regional Coroner Department and full-time deputy coroner serving the Colorado River Basin; Recommended legislation for the organ donor program; Established a world-wide-web site to assist in purchasing real estate and personal property, and finding relatives of the deceased; and developed S.T.A.R. (Sentencing Through Alternative Resources) program to provide edu-

cation and rehabilitation services to those sentenced by the court or those sentenced to perform community service.

McCormick is the only candidate who has served as both Public Administrator/Coroner and Public Guardian-Conservator, and has provided a balanced budget every year since his election in 1982. He also formed a department Affirmative Action Committee to provide equal opportunity for everyone seeking employment with the department.

Other involvement includes being an alternate member of the Inland Valley Developmental Agency, and is past chairman of the San Bernardino County Law Enforcement Administrators Association. McCormick has been continually involved with juvenile justice educational programs, speakers' bureaus, and working with families who are survivors of suicide and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

McCormick looks forward to the challenges of the next four years with enthusiasm and expects to continue to be a leader in San Bernardino County government. He credits his staff for their outstanding dedications and is, "... pledged to continue to work hard for the taxpayers of San Bernardino County and provide services with dignity and respect."

MICHAEL CRICHTON-CANDIDATE RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF

By Angela Vasquez

Michael Crichton is a 28-year peace officer and a candidate for the Riverside County Sheriff. Crichton seeks to oust the current Sheriff and revamp the departments archaic management practices.

"Since 1963, the department has had only three sheriffs," said Crichton. "This is due directly to the incumbent sheriff passing the mantle of command to his chosen successor. The operative word is his; not your chosen successor."

Some of the issues Crichton believes need addressing are adequate response times, safety during high speed pursuits, jail overcrowding, fatal shootings of the mentally ill or homeless, and racial profiling.

Crichton feels that his vast experience in patrol, jail, detectives, administration, contract city, dispatch, fleet, civil and specialized assignments will help him provide the department with the leadership that is currently lacking.

One of Crichton's key campaign promises is to bring diversity to the

Riverside Sheriff's Department.

"The Sheriff's Department policy makers are 12 white males and one white female," says Crichton. "I propose more diversified recruitment and the development of an employee mentoring program to better address the needs of employees and department, rather than the current 'good old boy' network in place for promotions."

Crichton also seeks to end the department's routine practice of detaining and turning non-English speaking persons over to the Border

Patrol during DUI and seat belt checkpoints, and parolee-at-large sweeps based on citizenship status.

"I ask for your vote for me as Riverside Sheriff on March 5. I am actively seeking your support in this critical race," said Crichton. "I will bring leadership to your sheriff's department to ensure your protection. Please join with me in making a change for our betterment."

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LOCAL HERO BRINGS HOME GOLD

Derek Parra is San Bernardino County's First Olympic Champion — Continued from page 1

DEREK PARRA DAY

Parra arrived in San Bernardino Monday night, in time for a Tuesday full of activities in his honor. San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles was there for the homecoming and joined thousands in Tuesday's events. City officials presented Parra with a key to the city and he was the guest of honor at the Mayor's State of the City address.

"I grew up here," Parra told the crowd. "All the values I have in my life have come from here. Family's big to me. My wife sacrificed more than me. When I knew that I had the record, the first person I looked for was her."

The parade began Tuesday morning at 10 at the National Orange Show Events Center and traveled one-half mile north on E Street to Arrowhead Credit Union Park. In a black convertible, Parra and his wife, Tiffany, led young San Bernardino athletes in a parade, followed by marching bands, floats, fire engines, police motorcycles and more than 1,400 people. It culminated with a two-hour rally in the stadium with bands, refreshments, white doves, fireworks and thousands of well-wishers.

"I can't believe it," Derek told the crowd. "But I'm glad that what I did was able to touch you guys in some way. I'll remember this day for the rest of my life."

A sold-out dinner was held to honor Parra Tuesday night — originally 600 seats were planned, but due to demand the number was bumped to 1,000. A Mariachi band performed and Mayor Valles, the guest singer, serenaded Parra.

Parra is an example for all of us, said Valles who encouraged the crowd to "get out of your little comfort zones and go for the gold."

Parra left Tuesday night for Burbank, where he was interviewed for NBC's "Today," "Dateline" and "Tonight Show."

HOW HE GOT THIS FAR

Parra's Olympic dreams were nourished on roller skates in San Bernardino's Westside. At 17, Parra graduated from Eisenhower High School in Rialto. He sold everything he owned and left home with a resume that included just one line: local skating legend.

He bought a plane ticket to Tampa, Fla. in 1987 with \$200 from his parents. He had hung all his hopes on the idea of training with Virgil Dooley, a man he had met at a skating clinic in Colorado Springs.

"A lot of kids talk about becoming a champion," Dooley said. "Derek called from San Bernardino to see if I'd train him. He asked if he could stay with us for a few days. He stayed for seven years."

Parra called Dooley again Feb. 9 on his way up to the awards podium.

"He wanted to thank us," said Dooley's wife, Sue. "He said he wouldn't have been there if it hadn't been for us."

While training under Dooley, Parra worked at McDonald's, making \$85 a week, in order to support himself and pay his \$15 per month rent. He would fill up on left-over Egg McMuffins at the end of his night shift because he could not afford to buy dinner.

Parra finally made the World Roller-skating Speed Team. He moved on to inline skating in the early '90s and became a three-time national champion, holding records in short- and long-distance events. Parra was the most decorated man in the 1995 Pan Am Games, taking home five gold medals, two silver and a bronze.

"I've been skating 45 years and I've never seen anyone as motivated," said Dooley. It was Dooley who suggested the idea of skating on ice to Parra.

While skating at a rink in Orlando, Parra met Tiffany Schwier, the woman who is now his wife and the mother of his daughter, Mia.

Parra tried ice-skating for the first time in Milwaukee, home of the Winter Olympic training facility. It was a lot harder than Parra expected.

"Roller-skating and ice skating may look the same, but they are completely different," said Parra. "I had

a good feel for the ice, but I definitely had to forget everything I learned roller-skating."

Parra did master ice skating and made the national team. Derek and Tiffany moved to Milwaukee where Derek trained and Tiffany attended Carroll College. She worked three jobs: at a makeup counter, in radiology at a hospital and at a bakery.

Derek secured sponsorship and a job with Home Depot, which developed a job program for potential Olympians. Their work and sacrifices paid off when Parra made it to the 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan. Due to an unfortunate filing error, Parra was not able to skate.

Parra won the 2000 U.S. all-around title, the 2001 North American Championship and the 2001 U.S. National Championship. He then won the first World Cup medal in the 1,500-meter race last November. Finally Parra won two medals in Salt Lake this month.



Rialto Mayor Grace Vargas waves at the crowd during the parade on E Street for Derek Parra. Thousands of people watched the two-hour parade that culminated at the Arrowhead Credit Union Stadium. Photo by IEHN



Roosevelt Elementary School students wave at the parade crowd during a parade to celebrate the coming-home of Olympic Medalist Derek Parra. Parra attended Roosevelt School in the San Bernardino Westside. During a previous visit to the school, Parra promised to visit the school if he won an Olympic medal. Parra kept his promise. Photo by IEHN



Attending the State of the City Breakfast at the Hilton Hotel were Sinfonia Mexicana members. Sinfonia Mexicana is a non-profit cultural organization that promotes Mexican symphonic music in the Inland Empire. Photo by IEHN



Aztec dancers perform at the Arrowhead Credit Union Stadium audience celebrating Derek Parra Day in San Bernardino. Photo by IEHN



The Mariachi Estudiantes del Inland Empire entertained the parade crowd with Mexican mariachi music during the ride to the Arrowhead Credit Union Stadium. The group is in demand throughout the Inland Empire and has played in Washington and Sacramento. Photo by IEHN



Mayor Judith Valles presents resolutions to (right to left) George and Virginia Cattone and Jerry Kasinski during a council meeting prior to Derek Parra's visit to the city. Kasinski, principal of Roosevelt School, was also Parra's teacher when he was attending that school. The Cattones are owners of the Stardust Roller Rink where Parra began his skating career. Photo by IEHN



Olympic winner Derek Parra and wife, Tiffany, greet the crowds during a parade in his honor. The couple are the parents of daughter, Mia, born last December. Photo by IEHN



Martin Valdez, left, Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Gloria Bocanegra, right, Sinfonia Mexicana Treasurer, present plaques to Derek Parra at the Arrowhead Credit Union Stadium. Photo by IEHN



The little performer (not identified) attempted to keep up with its group during the parade to the Arrowhead Credit Union Stadium. The parade was in honor of Olympic Medalist Derek Parra. Photo by IEHN



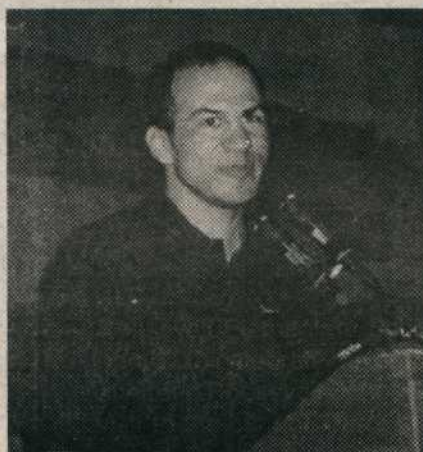
Derek Parra and Elizabeth Quintero sing together for the final goodbye to the 5,000 plus audience at the Arrowhead Credit Union Stadium. Photo by IEHN



Mayor Judith Valles sings Mexican songs to Derek Parra during a 1,000 plus dinner at the Orange Show. Parra borrows a Mexican sombrero to join the mayor in serenading the dinner crowd. Photo by IEHN



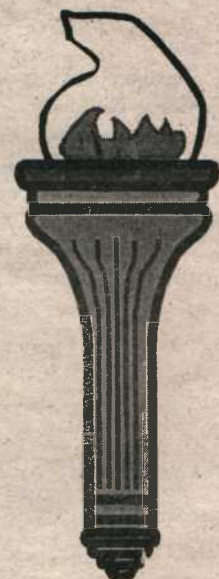
Bishop Gerald Barnes, Catholic Diocese of Riverside and San Bernardino, gave the invocation at the Arrowhead Credit Union Stadium during the homecoming celebration of Derek Parra. Photo by IEHN



Derek Parra (right) thanks the over 1000 persons at the Orange Show dinner for the warm welcome that he and his wife received in his hometown. He told the audience that future plans are pending. He also stated that he will never forget San Bernardino, his extended family and persons that supported him throughout his youth. Photo by IEHN



Derek and Tiffany Parra watch a video of Parra's early life in San Bernardino and his victories in the 1500 and 5000 races in the Olympics at Salt Lake City. Photo by IEHN



Commentary

HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS: BRIDGING THE RACIAL DIVIDE

When the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was created, there was a driving belief that through the increased level of competition throughout the telecommunications industry such world-shaping products as the Internet would soon be made available to everyone. Yet here we are a little more than five years after the Act and the reality is a growing racial divide for high-speed Internet access.

All I can say is thank goodness we have representatives like Joe Baca looking out for us in Congress. He clearly understands the importance of delivering broadband to everyone, which is why he is supporting H.R. 1542 – the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act.

H.R. 1542 will help close the gap by opening the market to all providers, allowing the local telephone companies to compete on an even playing field with the cable companies, who currently control more than 75% of the broadband market.

Millions of Americans are missing the benefits of the emerging digital economy because regulations have slowed deployment of the high-speed Internet backbone – also known as the Information Superhighway. Thanks to these regulations high-speed access to the Internet continues to elude many ethnic and rural communities. While the Internet should provide a platform for economic development

to all communities, current regulations continue to foster a "Digital Divide" by needlessly delaying the delivery of the most recent technological advances.

For a community to succeed in today's world it must have the most current and advanced resources available. Currently, and certainly in the near future, that resource is high-speed Internet access, and what drives that high-speed train is something called bandwidth. Unfortunately many companies that can provide this increased bandwidth and bring our communities into the technological age, the local telephone companies, are being shackled from doing so through regulatory roadblocks. This must stop.

So why is this happening? Currently, most local telephone companies, such as SBC Pacific Bell, are regulated on a different level than the long-distance carriers, like AT&T. Unless we see a conscious effort to deregulate the data market, I fear that this divide will not only sustain itself, but more than likely it will continue to widen. In other words the "haves" will continue to thrive and the "have nots" will continue to be left behind. And guess which communities can be found in the "have nots" category? That's right, the rural and ethnic communities continue to find themselves on the outside looking in.

So what can we do? We can help

by putting pressure on the FCC to speed up the deregulation of the data market and allow local telephone companies like SBC Pacific Bell to invest in the future of our communities. Opening the data market will accelerate deployment of advanced technology and services to all segments of the consumer market, including the rural and ethnic communities of our nation. By eliminating the arbitrary geographic regulatory boundaries, and by eliminating antiquated regulations that are applied to some, but not all, service providers, that existing gap between information "haves" and "have nots" will begin to close.

Never in the history of the world has there been a greater and potentially more prosperous time for our children to live. Imagine your son or daughter tapping into the wealth of the high-speed Internet to learn about their ancestors, or to study for their next school exam? However, this will simply remain in your imagination unless we stand up and demand that these regulatory roadblocks be pushed aside and allow all companies an even playing field. Then, perhaps we will see the 21st century bring our entire nation the rewards and possibilities of the information superhighway.

Richard Porras
Area Vice President, External Affairs
SBC Pacific Bell

WHITE APPOINTED TO NEW DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT POSITION

Dr. Judy D. White was appointed to the new created position of deputy superintendent by the San Bernardino City Unified School District Board of Education at the Tuesday, February 19 meeting.

White was selected for her qualifications and long-time service to and familiarity with the District. White has been with the District since 1986, most recently as the assistant superintendent of Educational Services and before that as a teacher, mentor teacher, vice principal, principal, and interim director of Special Education. White implemented the PeaceBuilders program, which became the national model, while she was the principal at Emmerton Elementary School, and in 1997 she formed the City of Readers to get the community involved in improving literacy skills.

White is a member of the Kiwanis Club, NAACP, and the Association of California School Administrators. She has been recognized as the 1997 School Administrator of the Year by County Counselors and the 1997 Educator of the Year by the Redlands Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. White has also received the 1998 Golden Pioneer Award and the 1996 John Tready Loving Care Award.

"I have a lot of confidence in Dr. White," said Superintendent Dr. Arturo Delgado. "She has been in the District for a long time. She knows

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LIFESTYLE CHANGES AND EDUCATION SAVE LIVES

The American heart Association (AHA) estimates that heart disease annually costs society \$300 billion, but fortunately, studies show that it can be prevented with lifestyle changes. In fact, the AHA predicts that life expectancy in the United States would rise by nearly seven years if all forms of heart disease were eliminated. "The first thing that people can do is educate themselves about heart disease," said Wendy Kuran, vice president of PacifiCare's Women's Health Initiative. "At PacifiCare, we have a program, *Take Charge of Your Heart Health*, that teaches people about the signs and risk factors. One important step for prevention is to work with their physician in tracking family health history for heart attacks or stroke." The program also includes information on:

- How to prepare "heart healthy" meals, avoiding food high in fat and salt, which can lead to high blood pressure
- Ways to fit an appropriate exercise regimen into a busy lifestyle to avoid obesity
- A wallet card to help track important screening tests and results
- Actions to decrease risks for heart disease, such as smoking cessation, lowering high blood cholesterol levels, controlling diabetes and seeing a healthcare provider regularly.

SUPERVISORS HOSTING
COUNTY FINANCIAL
SEMINAR FOR SMALL
BUSINESSES

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, along with the Office of Small Business Development and other agencies, are sponsoring a "Small Business Financing Opportunities Seminar." This financial evening, free seminar is scheduled for Thursday March 14, 2002, 5:30 p.m., at the San Bernardino County Museum, located at 2024 Orange Tree Lane in Redlands, CA.

This event will help County small business owners by providing them with a "one-stop" seminar to learn of the County's Financing Incentives, Small Business Administration Loans, SBA Intermediary Pre-qualification Loan Program, Government Below-Market Interest Rate to Start or Expand Business, 504 Loans, Micro Loans, as well as Business Technical Assistance, and other financial resources available to small business owners.

Representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), San Bernardino County Economic & Community Development, San Bernardino County Office of Small Business Development, Enterprise Funding Corporation, Inland Empire Business Financial Development Corporation, Bank of America and Inland Empire Small Business Development Center will be on hand to explain many of the financial opportunities.

There is no cost to attend but immediate registration is required as seating is limited. To RSVP, please call the County of San Bernardino Office of Small Business Development at (909) 387-8279

"Changing lifestyle habits can seem daunting and even unpleasant, but it doesn't have to be either," said Kuran. "We have some proven methods of making easy adjustments that fit into a busy lifestyle." Improved exercise, diet and knowledge of heart disease all add up to better health. During National Heart Month, people should look for ways to improve in each area. "Incremental improvements work best," added Kuran. "One step at a time, everyday activities can make a difference." For more information, please visit www.pacificare.com.

TAX ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE AT
UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

University of Redlands accounting students are available to prepare federal and state income tax forms as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service and California Franchise Tax Board. VITA provides free tax help in the community. Volunteers help people with the basic returns, particularly elderly, handicapped and non-English speaking taxpayers.

The service is available from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Feb. 19 (except April 2) in Jasper's Lounge at the Hunsaker University Center on Colton Avenue. No appointment is necessary. Taxpayers must bring their 2002 tax forms and any other helpful information, including copies of the 2001 returns if possible.

For more information, call the office of Community Service Learning at (909) 748-6297

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GOP SAYS HISPANICS ARE "ENEMIES OF THE STATE" DEMOCRATS FIGHT BACK

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Yesterday during a debate on the Floor of the United States House of Representatives, Arizona Republican J.D. Hayworth likened Hispanic legal permanent residents to "Enemies of the State." Rep. Hayworth's vitriolic remark was made during debate over a Republican-sponsored amendment that would have disproportionately impacted Hispanic voters by preventing legal permanent residents from participating in the political process.

Interestingly, by Rep. Hayworth's standard, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and HUD Secretary Mel Martinez would have been considered "Enemies of the State" since they were, at one time, legal permanent residents. Legal Permanent residents pay taxes and play by the rules.

Hispanic contributions to the security of our nation and to our democracy are well documented. For example, one third of all Presidential Medals of Honor have been awarded to Hispanics. Today there are 20,000 legal permanent residents enlisted in our nation's armed forces. They are protecting our airports, seaports, and borders. They risk their lives daily in Afghanistan and other places around the world to protect us here at home. Unfortunately, Republicans choose to ignore the accomplishments made by Hispanics in this country and continue to target the Latino Community.

"Rep Hayworth's comment is the latest attack on the Hispanic community by the Republican leadership in Congress, who speak out of both sides of their mouth when it comes to increasing Hispanic participation in politics," said Congressman Bob Menendez. "What happened to a kinder and gentler Republican Party? Fortunately, Republicans failed in their attempt to silence voices and exclude ethnic groups. The Democratic Party will continue to work hard to register and educate all voters -- both current and future. And we are fighting to ensure that all voices, not just those with the biggest checkbooks, are heard," said Congressman Bob Menendez.

The amendment, offered by Republican Congressman Dick Armey from Texas, failed by a vote of 160 voting yes to 268 voting no. The Republican amendment to the Shays-Meehan Campaign Reform Act would have prohibited donations from legal permanent residents to political parties. This would have disproportionately impacted the Hispanic community, since Latinos make up the largest number of legal permanent residents in the United States.

"The Republican message to Hispanics is loud and clear: Stay out of politics," said Congressman Bob

Menendez. "By labeling Hispanics as enemies, it clearly shows that they are not welcome in the Republican Party. This is surprising considering the growing political clout of Hispanics around the country. It's even more surprising that these remarks were made by a representative from Arizona, which has one of the fastest growing Hispanic populations in the nation. The Democratic Party believes that all Americans should have the right to show their support for a political cause. Participation in politics and government is crucial to our strength as a nation."

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- ✓ Work with community leaders to participate in effective anticrime measures.

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Donald L. Singer, SBCC Board Trustee
Theresa Parra, SBUSD Board Member
Dr. Elsa Valdez, SBUSD Board Member
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Frank Reyes, Assistant to Chancellor CC Board
Dr. Tom Rivera, Administrator, CSUB
Eloise Reyes, President, Latino Lawyers Associates
Dr. Mildred Henry, Chairman, PAL Center

Colonel David A. Raley, USAF (Ret.)
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Frank H Guzman, Attorney Victims Advocate

I.D. #991822



TAKING A LOOK AT YOUR CAREER STRATEGY

In an economy that forces companies to scrutinize every investment and expenditure, employees are looking for ways to increase or maintain their value to their employer.

Career experts agree that the value of an employee to a company increases as the employee's knowledge and skills increase. This is the case whether looking to advance within your current company or competing in the job market.

Faced with the increased challenges to stay current, knowledgeable and marketable, self-improvement becomes more than an option, but an essential element of your career strategy.

The first place to look when evaluating your career strategy is to determine if additional education is a way to increase your professional value.

An interesting statistic, according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor, is that adults with at least a bachelor's degree, on average, earn 75 percent more than workers with no education beyond a high school diploma.

Once you have decided that a degree or an advanced degree would be beneficial, you must decide how best to achieve your education goal.

This is no-easy matter. Most employees are time constrained with business, family and personal obligations.

For busy working adults, a traditional university or college experience, is simply unrealistic. A good alternative for working adults is an online learning environment. But once again, employees should closely look at the quality of that online experience.

One of the largest and most well known online learning institutions is the University of Phoenix Online.

Fully accredited, and with more than 34,000 students currently enrolled, University of Phoenix Online developed a course calendar that coincides with an adult pace and lifestyle. The online course calendar allows them to complete an undergraduate degree in three to four years, and a graduate degree in about two

years, while they continue to hold down jobs and raise families.

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